

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the previous objections to claims 7 and 13. Applicants also thank the Examiner for withdrawing the previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Claims 2-14 are all the claims pending in the present application, claim 1 having been canceled as indicated herein. In summary, the Examiner adds a secondary reference Messerges et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0157002) in addition to primary reference Yamamoto et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0084291), to support the claim rejections. Specifically, claims 1-14 are now rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yamamoto in view of Messerges.

With respect to independent claim 2, Applicants submit that the applied references, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest at least, “wherein the predetermined device identification information is generated by using N respective device identifiers for configuring the domain, wherein N is a whole number,” as recited in amended claim 2. Nowhere do either of the applied references satisfy at least this particular feature of amended claim 2. Support for the amendments to claim 2 can be found in at least numbered paragraph [018] of the specification. At least based on the foregoing, Applicants submit that independent claim 2 is patentably distinguishable over the applied references.

Applicants submit that amended independent claims 3 and 9 are patentable at least based on reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to independent claim 2.

Applicants submit that dependent claims 4-8 and 10-14 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies from independent claims 3 and 9.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

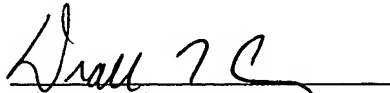
Respectfully submitted,

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